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Security Council

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Letter dated 18 February 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Slovenia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On behalf of the Presidency of the European Union, I have the honour to draw your attention to the conclusions of the Council of the European Union on Kosovo and on the Western Balkans, adopted in Brussels on 18 February 2008 (see annex).

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Sanja **Štiglic**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* Reissued for technical reasons.

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Annex to the letter dated 18 February 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Slovenia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Conclusions of the Council of the European Union on Kosovo

18 February 2008

On 17 February 2008 the Kosovo Assembly adopted a resolution which declares Kosovo to be independent. The Council takes note that the resolution commits Kosovo to the principles of democracy and equality of all its citizens, the protection of the Serb and other minorities, the protection of the cultural and religious heritage and international supervision. The Council welcomes the continued presence of the international community based on Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).

The Council notes that Member States will decide, in accordance with national practice and international law, on their relations with Kosovo.

The Council recalls the European Union's longstanding commitment to the stability of the Western Balkans region. The Council reiterates the European Union's readiness to play a leading role in strengthening stability in the region, and recalls the European Union's commitments contained in the conclusions of the European Council of 14 December 2007, as well as the agreement on Joint Action establishing a police and rule of law mission under the European Security and Defence Policy and appointing a European Union Special Representative in Kosovo. The European Union will continue to cooperate with the United Nations, KFOR, OSCE and other international actors in order to preserve stability in the region.

The Council reaffirms its commitment to fully and effectively support the European perspective for the Western Balkans. It asks the Commission to use community instruments to promote economic and political development and to propose to the broader region concrete measures to advance in that direction.

The Council reiterates the European Union's adherence to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the Helsinki Final Act, inter alia the principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity and all Security Council resolutions. It underlines its conviction that, in view of the conflict of the 1990s and the extended period of international administration under Security Council resolution 1244 (1999), Kosovo constitutes a sui generis case which does not call into question these principles and resolutions.

Conclusions of the Council of the European Union on the Western Balkans

18 February 2008

The Council condemned recent acts of violence in Belgrade, Mitrovica and other places, in particular against foreign diplomatic missions, and urged the respective authorities to ensure the security and safety of European Union citizens and their property. The Council called on Belgrade and Pristina to respect previous commitments to refrain from any activities or statements which might endanger the security situation.